and are functioning satisfactorily.

(c) To avoid drifting of buoys, the Kandla Port Trust is considering installation of modern buoys in a phased matter.

Report submitted by New TRAI

*175. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new TRAI has submitted its Report containing its recommendations to Government;

(b) if so, whether it is binding on Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Collection of additional Excise duty

*176. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the amount of total additional excise duties collected by Government in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 till December, 31, 1999;

(b) whether Government would ensure that the States' share is protected from this source;

(c) whether there is any provision to replenish this Fund if excise revenue falls due to new policies in the North East; and

(d) the details of the replenishment fund organised by Government to protect States' share of additional excise revenues?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASWANT SINHA): (a) The collection of additional excise duty in 1998-99 was Rs. 2960.40 Crore and in 1999-2000 till December, 1999 was Rs. 2142.00 Crore.

(b) to (d) States' share in Central taxes is determined on the basis of the

recommendations of the Finance Commission under articles 270,272 & 280 of the constitution. The share is calculated with reference to actual tax collection and there is no provision for any replenishment fund.

International status to New Airports

*177. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to give international status to new airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would consider the request to give international status to the new airport at Nodumbasseri, Cochin in Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, when an exercise for upgradation of domestic airports to international status is undertaken.

Effect of Liberalisation and Privatisation

*178. SHRI GOVIND RAO ADIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scathing attack has been made on the policies of liberalisation and privatisation by highlighting in detail the disastrous effects of these policies on different areas as agriculture, health, education, employment, public sector, public distribution system, media and culture throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government have so far taken or propose to take for defending the economic sovereignty, national unity, secularism and for not mortgaging the interests of the Nation?